



January 2013 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



An active pattern aloft brought much needed rainfall to Southeast Texas in January. However, all first and second order climate stations reported above normal average temperatures.

Even with the rainfall, most of the climate sites received below normal amounts for the month (see Figure 1). The first half of the month experienced a series of fronts which brought limited but

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX): January, 2013 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 2/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 2/3/13 21:39 UTC

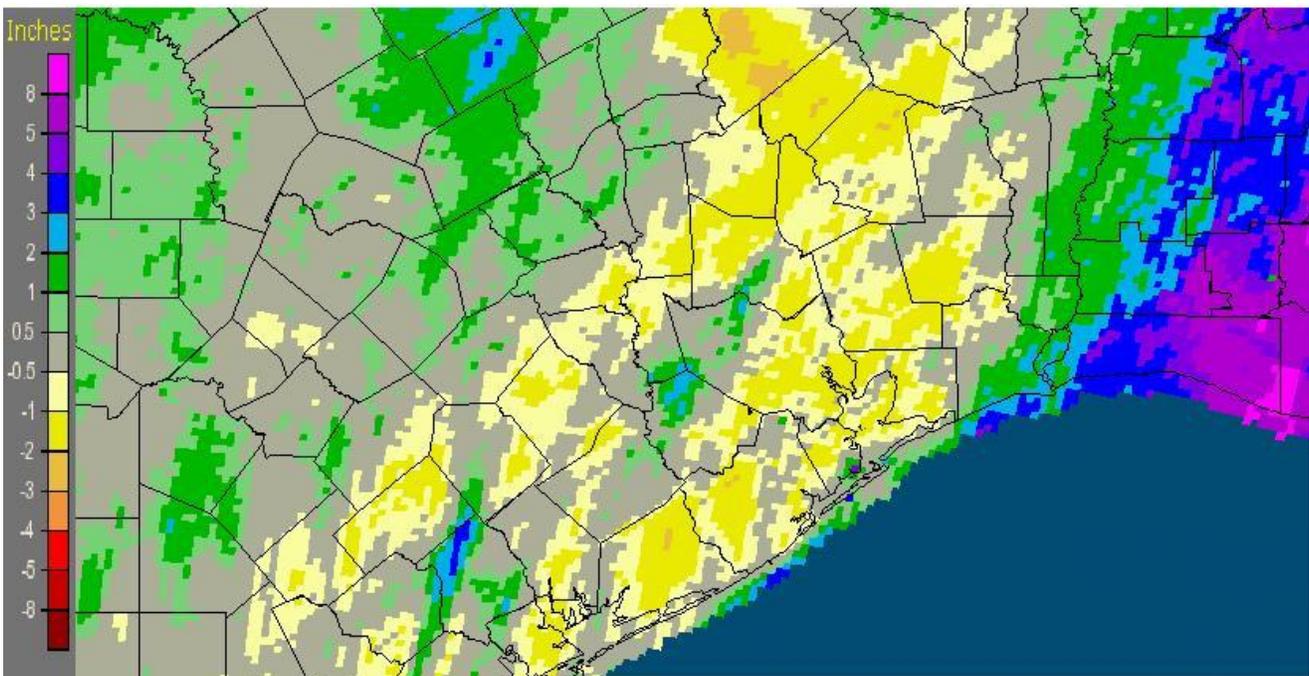


Figure 1: January 2013 departure from normal precipitation in inches
(<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>)

widespread rainfall. Even though most of the second half was drier, the month did end with an area wide rainfall episode. Because of the below normal rainfall, the drought monitor continued to record abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions across the NWS Houston/ Galveston county warning area. Driest conditions were found to be located mainly along and northwest of a line from Columbus to Conroe to Livingston.

January experienced above normal monthly average temperatures for the second year in a row. This has been due in part to a drastic increase in the monthly average low temperatures, especially last year. For example, IAH has a normal January low temperature of 43.2, yet the average for 2012 was 47.8 and this year was 45.8. This is an increase of 4.6 and 2.6 degrees above normal respectively.

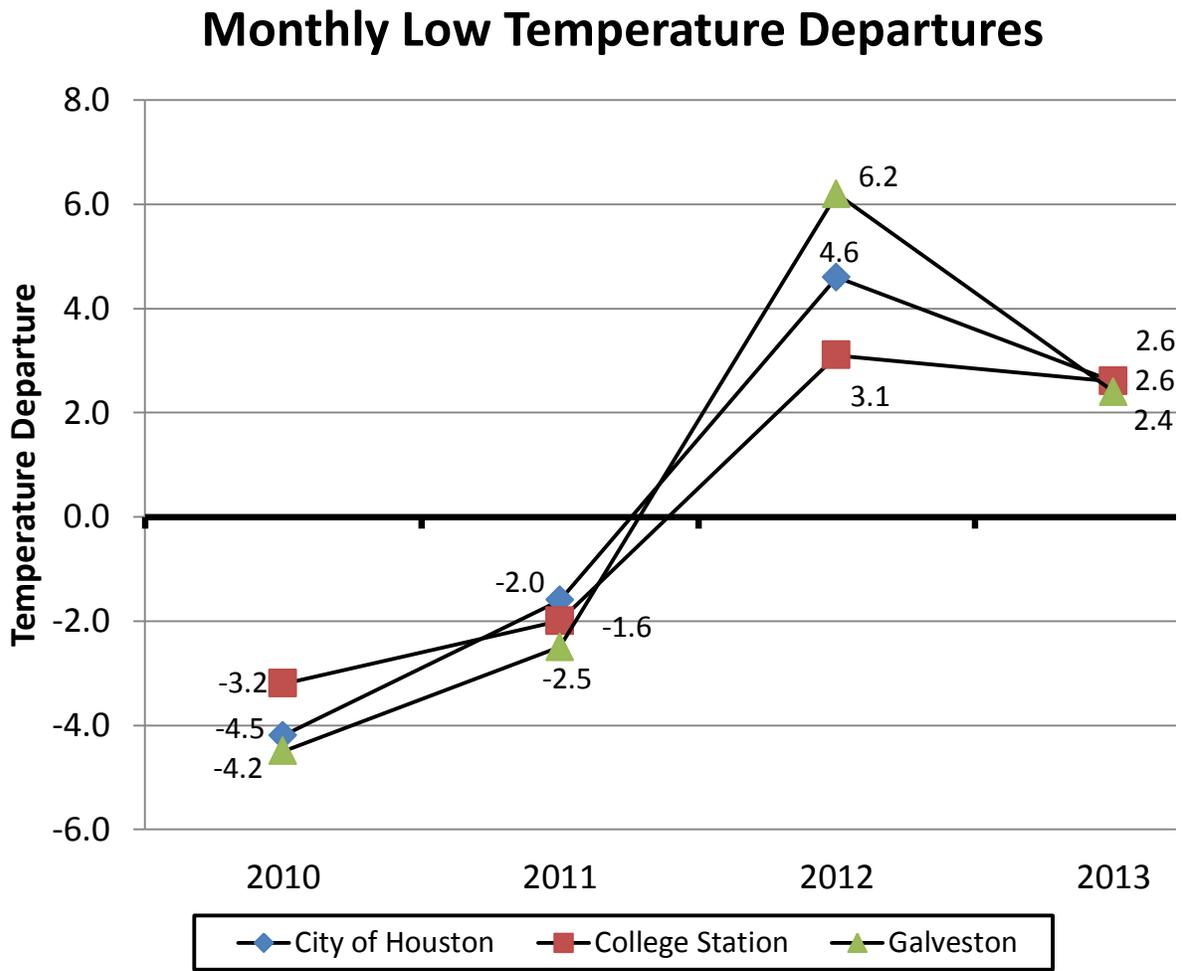


Figure 2: Monthly low temperature departures for the City of Houston, College Station, and the City of Galveston

Figure 2 highlights the short term trends over the past five years for the month of January. Note that 2012 was unusually warm with the departures for the four first-order climate stations ranging from over 4.5 to almost 6 degrees above normal for the monthly average temperatures alone (see Figure 3).

Monthly Average Temperature Departures

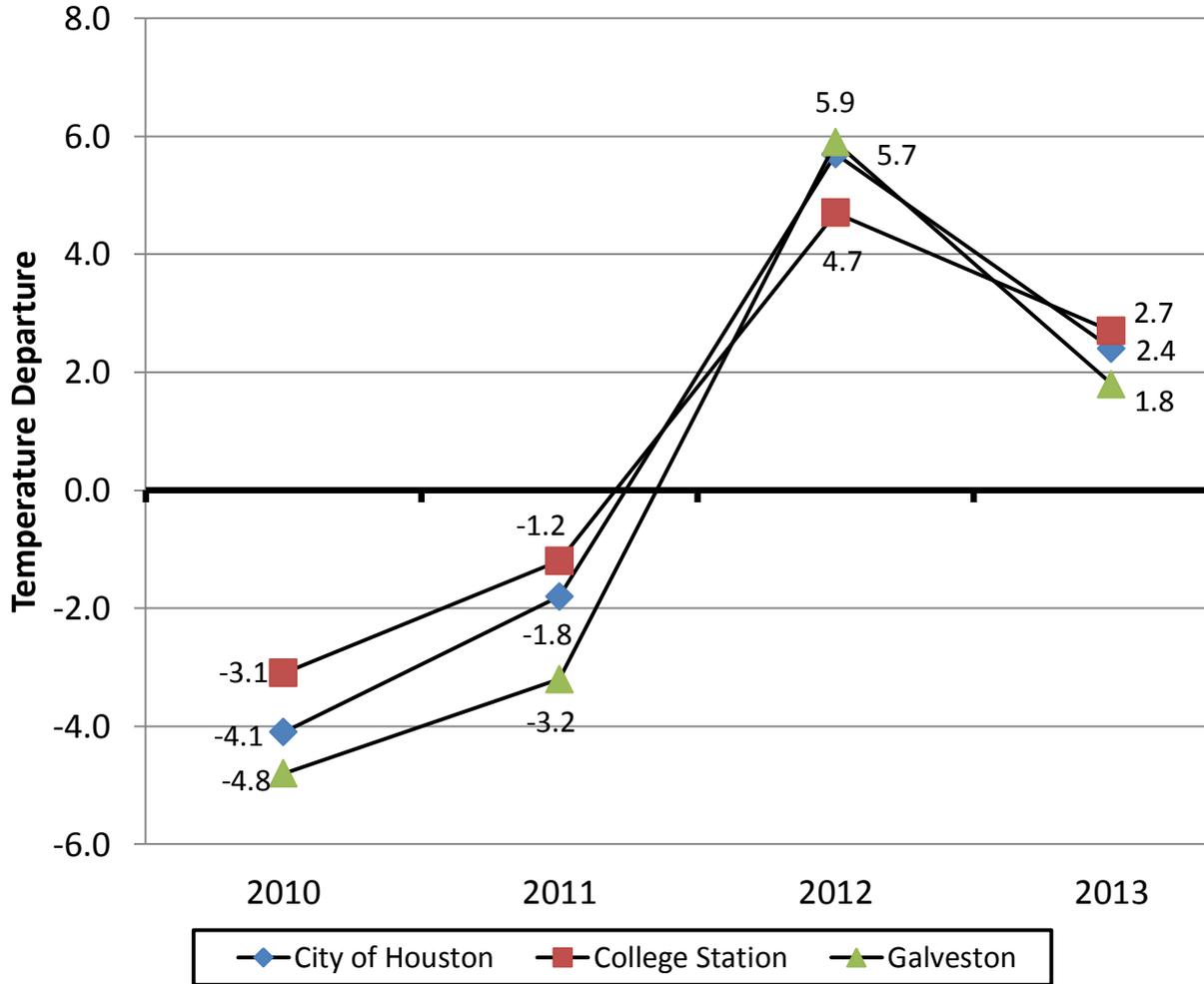


Figure 3: Monthly average temperature departures for the City of Houston, College Station, and the City of Galveston

